and Israel for providing technical inputs for qualitative production of litchi to farmers, and sending of trial consignment of litchi to Europe by sea for developing the protocol for sea transportation of the fruit. Further, assistance has been provided for setting up three exclusive pack-houses for processing of fresh fruits and vegetables, specially lichi in Bihar.

Statement

State-wise Area and Production of Litchi

States	Area (in 000'HA)		Production (inOOO'MT)	
	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00
Assam	4.0	4.1	16.8	17.1
Bihar	25.8	26.4	309.6	316.5
Punjab	2.3	1.1	13.2	11.1
Tripura	4.7	4.7	26.6	26.6
Uttranchal	8.8	8.9	13.7	12.9
West Bengal	3.7	3.9	36.0	37.6
Others	6.9	7.6	13.0	16.5
TOTAL	56.2	56.7	428.9	438.3

Import of Animals

† 4287. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that animals are being imported in the country on a large scale;

(b) if so, whether the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy is issuing No Objection Certificates for import of animals, without examination by the Department of Animal Research;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether import of animals has posed a great threat to the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government in this regard and the action taken against the officers found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. As per the current Exim Policy, the import of all animals except grand parent stock of poultry is in the restricted list ofimports.

(b) The Government has set up an Expert Group which also includes a representative of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to examine the cases of import of animals from health angle. As such. No Objection Certificates are issued for import of animals only after due consideration, in consultation with the ICAR.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c).

Market Intervention Scheme for palm oil farmers in Andhra Pradesh

4288. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of palm oil was fixed at Rs. 25,000/- per MT in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an average sale realization was achieved at Rs. 20,066/- per MT which, during July, 2001, increased upto Rs. 23,550/-, still lower than the Market Intervention Scheme;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government to continue the Market Intervention Scheme till the end of October. 2001, to save the farmers; and

(d) if so. the decision taken by the Union Government for protection of farmers in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, Market Intervention Scheme